

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

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Nick Carter in Print

Bibliographical Record of a Not Yet Forgotten Fictional Hero, From His Creation in 1886 to His Last Line in 1936

by J. EDWARD LEITHEAD

The tale runs that the fabulous Nicholas Carter came into being during a luncheon given by Ormond G. Smith, of Street & Smith, to his writing staff. The scene, a New York restaurant, and the time, probably midsummer of 1886. John Russell Coryell was one of the authors present. Among other Street & Smith publications of that time, the New York Weekly was under discussion. Mr. Smith desiring to start a new series in the paper, possibly a detective series with some new and glamorous sleuth as the central figure.

Mr. Coryell rose to the occasion. Whether or not he spoke of Nick Carter by name at that luncheon, the idea of such a character was there to be developed, and Mr. Smith approved. When Coryell had finished the first story he had created "the greatest sleuth that ever lived," Nick, the son of old Sim Carter, a detective, was introduced at the age of twenty-four in "The Old Detective's Pupil, or, The Mysterious Crime of Madison Square," serialized in the New York Weekly, commencing September 18, 1886. He captured reader imagination so completely that Coryell was kept busy working on two more serials for the New York Weekly, "A Wall Street Haul" and "Fighting Against Millions." These three original Nick Carter stories were later reprinted in the book-size Magnet Library, each of them twice.



The demand for Nick Carter tales led Street & Smith to start the black-and-white Nick Carter Library in 1891, the first long series devoted to his adventures. Issued every Saturday, it ran to 282 numbers. The stories were all new up to #187, "One Against Twenty-one, or, The Ranch Robbery," a reprint of #4, same title. In this yarn Chick, later Nick's adopted son and first assistant, appeared as a fourteen-year-old walf of Nevada,

picked up by the detective while running down an outlaw gang, The Twenty-one, Patsy Murphy, a newsboy who grew to manhood during the course of the Nick Carter serial and became Nick's second assistant, also was introduced in this library. There were about thirty-three Library stories featuring him, and several in the Nick Carter Weekly. Somewhere along the route Patsy lost the name of Murphy and took the name of Garvan. He was the same lad.

The Library had a total of 42 reprints from its own list after #187. Among the stories must be noted #13, "3,000 Miles by Freight," #14, "The Thirteen's Oath of Vengeance" and #15, "The Fate of Doctor Quartz," for these were the first tales about the infamous criminal doctor, Jack Quartz, the slickest opponent Nick Carter and his assistants ever encountered. Ida Jones, Nick's woman assistant, began her career in the Library, continued it in the Weekly, and even the New Magnet Library. John R. Coryell, Eugene T. Sawyer, Thomas W. Hanshaw and others were contributors to this black-and-white series.

Ainslee's Magazine published five Nick Carter stories under the series title, "The Adventures of Nicholas Carter," by Charles Westbrook, and four of the titles were: "Convicted by a Camera," Nov. 1900; "After the Bachelor Dinner," Dec. 1900; "The Mysterious Highwayman," Jan. 1901; and "The Testimony of a Mouse," Mar. 1901. There is evidence that in the 1890's or later, short stories about Nick Carter were originally published in some other Street & Smith magazine or story paper. The book-size Magnet Library #89, "The Detective's Pretty Neighbor," was a reprint of a series of ten shorts.

In 1897, when the colored covers were crowding out the plain black-and-white pamphlets, the first number of New Nick Carter Weekly was issued, replacing Nick Carter Library. This was the longest and most important Nick Carter series, running to 819 numbers. For a time it was called New Nick Carter Weekly, then Nick Carter Weekly, and still later, New Nick Carter Weekly again. This has sometimes given the impression that there were two Nick Carter Weeklies, but there was only the one. The last

colored cover library, which saw the end of five-cent Nick Carters, was called Nick Carter Stories.

For twenty-seven issues, New Nick Carter Weekly detailed the detective exploits of Trimble Carter, Chick's son, Number One being "The Gold Mine Case." #28, "Nick Carter at the Track," was a reprint of Nick Carter Library #48. Trim had a few more cases, then, in #40, Nick Carter opened a detective school. We hear of such junior assistants as Roxy, the girl detective, Bob Ferret, Buff and others, all new stories. Finally, Nick, Chick and Patsy took and held the center of the stage. Reprints from Nick Carter Library were used, often with the title changed. Here are samples: Nick Carter Library #104 was "Nick Carter and the Circus Crooks; or, The Greatest Show on Earth." It re-appeared in Nick Carter Weekly #120 as "Fighting the Circus Crooks; or, Ten Thousand Dollars Short." Another, Nick Carter Library #109 "Nick Carter After Bob Dalton; or, Tracking the Greatest Outlaw Since Jesse James," became, in Nick Carter Weekly #125, "Nick Carter a Prisoner; or, How Bob Dalton Found His Match." A lot of others were similarly changed. There were new stories as well as reprints, of course. At the top of the title page of #153, "Nick Carter's Midnight Visitor," was printed the following: "A new story, written especially for the Nick Carter Weekly, and will not appear in any other number."

With the exception of four numbers, Nick Carter Weekly was issued in the small size from #1 to 227, changing permanently to the large size with #228 "Nick Carter in Harness again." #91, 92, 93, and possibly 94, were of the larger size, exactly like copies of Nick Carter Library, even to the masthead with Nick in various disguises, and having 16 pages; but the covers were colored instead of black-and-white.

Early in 1904, the author who had the most to do with building up Nick Carter's reputation, started writing for the Weekly. He was Frederick Van Rensselaer Dey, called "Colonel" by his friends, and looking the part with mustache and goatee. He had been educated for the law profession. He wrote more Nick Carters than any other of Nick's ghost writers, his first being #372, "Dazaar, the Arch Fiend."

Street & Smith gave the new series a good start by stating that it was "especially edited and revised by Chickering Carter." Chick's name appeared thenceforth as editor of the Weekly. On a back page, over the signature of "Nicholas Carter," was printed special authorization to the publishers for issuing the stories of Nick's exploits. It was a touch of realism which no doubt stepped up the interest of Carter's legion of readers.

Mr. Dey proceeded to recount the amazing "Dazaar" cases, second only in importance to the mysteries involving Doctor Quartz. Dazaar was a criminal of dual personality. At one time a Tibetan lama, at another a Russian princess named Irma Plavatski. Six other persons had been trained to assume the identity of Dazaar when the law closed in. By this artifice, the true Dazaar eluded Nick Carter and his assistants for many a long day. Murder by radium, inserted in the sweatband of hats worn by her male victims, was a new method of killing invented by Dazaar. The original Dazaar series included six stories: #372, "Dazaar, the Arch Fiend," #373, "The Queen of the Seven," #374, "The Sign of the Dagger," #375, "The Devil Worshipers," #376, "The Cross of Daggers" and #377, "The Last of the Seven." All the cover illustrations of this series were hair-raisers.

In #377, Irma Plavatski confesses to being the real Dazaar, following her arrest. But did that end her predacious career? Not much! Dazaar came back in #394, "A Princess of Hades," and #395, "A Compact with Dazaar" and #396, "In the Shadow of Dazaar," as the titles indicate, continued Nick's adventures with this remarkable menace. But #396 marked the end of the contest, and Nick was triumphant at the last.

The only criminal surpassing Dazaar in periodic reappearances and menace to Nick Carter was Doctor Jack Quartz. Quartz, a criminal skilled as a physician, surgeon and scientist, had a hold on life that would have made him a good insurance risk. Introduced to readers in the Nick Carter Library, he was portrayed as a man of medium height, a bit portly, smooth-shaven, with a not unpleasant manner, even when he intended the most harm. He was strong, too, almost as strong as Nick Carter himself,

who, from the early days of the Library had been called the "Little Giant." Thus the great detective and the great criminal had considerable respect for each other's mental and physical powers, though on opposite sides of the law.

By all odds, Quartz was the cleverest and most persistent law-breaker in Nick Carter's detective career. Usually he associated himself with some smart woman criminal, one of whom, Zaroni, fell in love with Nick (as did many shady ladies before and after, for that matter). Strangely enough, Zaroni's tender passion budded forth at a time when Nick was not himself. Under the influence of a drug administered by Quartz, he thought he was another man, a wealthy invalid, and that Zaroni was his wife. The detective treated her with such deference and affection while doped up that Zaroni's better side was aroused, much to the chagrin of Doctor Quartz. The doctor was traveling with them as the "invalid's" personal physician, their destination an island in the Pacific, where Quartz would be master of all he surveyed and charitably planned to dissect Nick alive, for the detective was the finest physical specimen Quartz had ever encountered. Chick Carter and Patsy Garvan followed the criminal doctor's private yacht across the Pacific to the little-known island and saved their chief from the tortures of vivisection. Zaroni, unable to return to her old life through love of Nick, leaped into the sea. But she turned up again; and so did the master criminal, Jack Quartz.

It was Dey who authored the foregoing. Eight Quartz tales had been printed in the Nick Carter Library, and Dey brought him to life twice in Nick Carter Weekly. The first new Quartz series in the Weekly began with #413, "Doctor Quartz, the Second." Then followed, #414, "Doctor Quartz, the Second, at Bay," #415, "The Great Hotel Murders," #416, "Zaroni, the Woman Wizard," #417, "The Woman Wizard's Hate," #418, "The Prison Demon," #419, "Nick Carter and the Hangman's Noose," #420, "Doctor Quartz's Last Play" and #421, "Zaroni, the Transfigured."

The doctor was supposed to have died on that island in the Pacific; nothing was heard from him for a long time. But in #692 "Doctor Quartz

Again," Dey resurrected the rascal. In that, and the five succeeding issues, Nick and his staff were pitted against the same old Quartz, surrounded by a new gang of lawbreakers: #693, "The Famous Case of Doctor Quartz," #694 "The Chemical Clue," #695, "The Prison Cipher," #696, "A Pupil of Doctor Quartz" and #697, "The Midnight Visitor."

Next time the doctor was heard from it was through a series of reprints from the Library, and the Weekly itself, being #779 to 795 inclusive. The titles were similar to those in the original issues; but, while the stories were the same, the cover illustrations were not.

As the New Nick Carter Weekly ended with #819, Quartz hardly had time to rise from the grave yet again. No stories about him appeared in Nick Carter Stories, which followed the Weekly onto the newsstands. But Nick wasn't through with him. Three novelettes featured him matching wits with Nick, Chick, Patsy and Ida Jones in Street & Smith's Detective Story Magazine. These were brand new stories, very exciting, and brought up to date. Carter and Quartz were slightly older. The issue for December 11, 1926 contained "Doctor Quartz Returns"; December 25th, "Nick Carter Corners Doctor Quartz"; January 22nd, 1927, "Nick Carter's Danger Trail." During the early part of 1927, three other Nick Carter novelettes were published in Detective Story Magazine: "Nick Carter and the Shadow Woman," "Nick Carter and the Black Cat" and "Nick Carter Dies." But these weren't Quartz tales. At last accounts, the wily doctor was on his way to the electric chair.

Dey possessed abundant imagination, a good narrative style and the knack of making Nick and his staff come alive on the printed page. His plots were varied, concerning every sort of crime puzzle for Nick to solve. Murder, jewel, bank and train robbery, smuggling, kidnapping, arson, forgery, counterfeiting, embezzlement, modern piracy on the high seas, Western outlawry. One time a case would take Carter and his assistants into the New York, Chicago or San Francisco underworlds; at another time, overseas, to handle a case for European royalty, like the following in New Nick Carter Weekly #380, "An Em-

peror at Bay," #381, "The Crime Behind the Throne" and #382, "Holding Up a Nation," all of which took place in Russia during the reign of the Czar Nicholas. Later on we have more of the same in #422, "By Command of the Czar" and #423, "The Conspiracy of a Nation." Then there was the case of "The Veiled Princess," #485, and its sequel, "The Conquest of a Kingdom," #486. Still more Russian intrigue, this time with a New York background, in #559, "A Beautiful Anarchist," #560, "The Nihilist's Second Move" and #561, "The Brotherhood of Free Russia." Shifting the scene to a mythical European kingdom, we have an interesting series, #589 to 591, "A Plot Within a Palace," "The Countess Zita's Defense" and "The Princess' Last Effort." Dey usually wrote a series of three related stories, to be reprinted later in a single number of Street & Smith's New Magnet Library.

Outwitting spies of foreign lands and smashing spy systems was meat for Nick Carter & Co. #562, "A White House Mystery," #563, "The Great Spy System" and #564, "The Last of Mustushimi" formed a fine series of this kind, by Dey. Theodore Roosevelt was President of the United States at the time these stories were published. While not mentioned by name, the President's use of his famous expression, "Delighted!", in welcoming Nick Carter to a conference easily identifies him. Another such series ran in #580 to 582, "An International Conspiracy," "Plotters Against a Nation" and "Mignon Duprez, the Female Spy." Nick's second assistant, Patsy Garvan, was featured rather than the chief, and most of the action took place in South America. In #582, Patsy meets, on a railroad train, the beautiful and accomplished Adelina, who was to become his wife and one of Nick's valued assistants. She was a born actress and particularly adept at disguising. Patsy and Adelina, vacationing in Europe after their marriage, solved a mystery of royalty in #598 to 600, "Patsy's Vacation Problem," "The King's Prisoner" and "A Woman to the Rescue."

#716 to 718 was another "spy series"—"The Ghost of Bare-faced Jimmy," "The Master Rogue's Alibi" and "The Diplomatic Spy." Mention of Bare-faced Jimmy Duryea calls to

mind the stories in which Dey first introduced him, as clever a crook as Nick Carter ever tracked down; he appeared in #507, "Bare-faced Jimmy, Gentleman Burglar" and #508, "The Gentleman Grook's Last Act." About the last of Dey's "spy" stories for the Weekly were contained in #799 to 801, "The Secret Agent," "A Plot for a Crown" and "The Red Button."

Of Western outlaw and train robbery cases, Nick Carter handled not a few. Some of these, in the earlier issues of the Weekly, were reprints from the Library, but Mr. Dey contributed several new ones, #467, "The Man from Nevada," #468, "Maguey, the Mexican," #501, "The Man from Montana," #502, "Ismalla, the Chieftain," #504, "Nick Carter Among the Bad Men," #509, "The 'Skidoo' of the K. U. & T." and #510, "The Last of the Outlaws."

#525, "The Passenger on the Night Local," had a Western background, and Ted Strong, King of the Wild West, the hero of Rough Rider Weekly, assisted Nick on the case. Nick himself did several turns in Rough Rider Weekly; he also helped out Old Broadbrim three times in Old Broadbrim Weekly: #46, "Old Broadbrim Leagued With Nick Carter, or, The Biggest Case of Their Lives," #47, "Old Broadbrim's Clew from the Dead, or, Two Famous Detectives on the Same Case" and #48, "Old Broadbrim in a Deep Sea Struggle, or, A Helping Hand from Nick Carter."

Mr. Dey selected the Alaskan goldfields for the scene of #495, "The Klondike Bank Puzzle" and #496, "The Bad Man of Nome." Another case began in New York and ended in the Southwest, #535, "A Mystery from the Klondike," #554, "Returned from the Dead" and #555, "The Mystery Man of 7-Up Ranch." Employing the well-known Harvey Logan, alias Kid Curry, outlaw associate of Butch Cassidy, as chief menace, Dey wove three tales of detective vs. bandit in #556, "A Bad Man of Montana," #557, "The Man from Arizona" and #558, "Kid Curry's Last Stand." Three excellent out-law stories, with an Old Mexico locale, were #592 to 594, "The Two Lost Chittendens," "Miguel, the Avenger," and "Eulalia, the Bandit Queen." About the last series in the Weekly with a Western setting were three more by Dey, #613 to 615, "The

Senator's Plot," "The Madness of Morgan" and "A Million Dollar Hold-up."

Nor did Dey overlook the allure of mystery at the circus. Hindpaugh's Circus (no doubt meant to be Adam Forepaugh's Circus) and the old Madison Square Garden were the background for three great thrillers, #634, "The Tiger Tamer," #635, "A Strange Bargain" and #636, "The Haunted Circus." The circus covers on these issues are striking. The first one shows Nick in the room of the tiger Tamer, who lies dead on a couch. His favorite tiger, a big Bengal named Prince, is making friends with the detective, and Nick later uses the tiger to trace its trainer's murderer. The cover on the second story depicts a ring under the big top, clowns and all, with the Bengal loose and springing for the tiger tamer's wife, who has a cowgirl deadshot act in the show. The third cover portrays the menagerie of Hindpaugh's on a stampede in Madison Square Garden. The criminals in the case had opened all the cages.

Giving his imagination full rein, Mr. Dey obtained some very entertaining results. Two fanciful tales were #529, "The Index of Seven Stars" and #530, "An Amazonian Queen." Nick discovers a hidden city, and, in a setting like ancient Rome, turns gladiator, battling lions in an arena. Dey had something in similar vein ready three issues later. #535, "Facing an Unseen Terror," opens with an unusual sort of murder at the horse show in Madison Square Garden, introducing a mystery lady from a far-off country, whose beautiful white-gold hair above a youthful face would to-day have labeled her a "platinum blonde." Her adventures were continued in #534, "Idayah, the Woman of Mystery," #535, "The Making of a King," #536, "The Empire of a Goddess," #537, "Zanabayah, the Terrible" and #538, "The Seven-headed Monster." Idayah had set forth to conquer, and her associates were a weird lot, particularly Zanabayah, the Vitic King. In the cover illustration of #537, Zanabayah is shown standing outside of a hotel elevator, paralyzing Nick with his "vitic power" as the detective tries to place him under arrest. The cover of #534 is another startler. It shows Nick leaping from an airship to the roof of his Madison Avenue home,

clutching the form of Roger Starbuck, a man whom Idayah had abducted. Abduction by airship was just an author's flight of fancy then, more feasible in these times. Although most of the Weekly tales turned up again in New Magnet Library, these "Idayah and Zanabayah" stories apparently were never reprinted. They may just have been overlooked, or possibly, on second editorial thought, were considered too bizarre. At any rate, they were good reading, and the picture covers were excellent, most of them the work of Marmaduke Russell.

A series by Dey, partly laid in India, appeared in #583 to 585. It opens in New York City, where a society woman, a victim of kleptomania, steals jewels from her wealthy friends and is found out by Nick Carter after some astute sleuthing. She is forgiven by her friends and the law. The scene shifts to India. The lady with the irresistible propensity to pilfer, lifts a precious stone belonging to a rajah. Through Nick, the "Goddess' Heart" is recovered and Mrs. Payson is again forgiven, the rajah sympathizing with her mental twist. His people, the wild tribesmen of the hills, do not concur. The ruby is sacrosanct and the theft of it, to their minds, is an unforgivable offense. Mrs. Payson is carried off and prepared for death by fire. Nick again comes to the front, hides in an idol in a temple and holds the fancies at bay until a troop of British cavalry arrives to rescue him and Mrs. Payson.

Under Dey's guidance, Nick went to Japan on a Government mission in #601 to 603; in #619 to 612 we find him in Mexico, investigating a mysterious castle, and later he is marooned on a small island which turns out to be volcanic, narrowly escaping with his life when an eruption occurs. The cover illustration of this "Island of Fire" number, showing the volcano in action is a startler.

Most of the stories from #372 to 778 of the New Nick Carter Weekly were the work of Dey, but there were some by Frederick W. Davis and W. Bert Foster, possibly a few by John H. Whitson. Foster's first for the Weekly were #565, "Secrets of a Haunted House" and #566, "A Mystery in India Ink." #567, "The Plot of the Stantons," while forming the third story of this series of three

started by Foster, seems to have been written by Dey. Foster authored #616, "Nick Carter's Submarine Clue" and the five succeeding issues. He was back again in #648, "The House of the Yellow Door," for another half dozen numbers. Beginning with #665, "The Dead Man in the Car," he wrote for eighteen consecutive issues, and #666, "Nick Carter's Master Struggle," wherein is described Nick's battle with an orang-outang, is a rattling good one. A series, #674 through 676, begins in Honduras, Central America, and winds up in New Orleans, La., during the Mardi Gras carnival. Cover illustrations of #676, "Behind the Mash," shows a colorful parade of the merrymakers.

Frederick W. Davis, who often used the pen name "Scott Campbell," had written a good many detective stories for the Magnet Library (some were Nick Carters) and other Street & Smith publications, before doing a series for Nick Carter Weekly. #683, "A Life at Stake," #684, "Trailing a Secret Thread" and #685, "The Crimson Flash," were his, and he contributed further tales, beginning with #698, "The Master Crook's Match."

The Nick Carter Library, Weekly and Stories (and Magnet Library "Nick Carters" published concurrently) covered the whole of the Gay Nineties period and the first decade of the 20th Century. The cover illustrations of these libraries represent vividly the gradual changes in American life from the days of horse-drawn vehicles to gasoline buggies. The S. & S. staff artists during that time were Charles L. Wrenn, Marmaduke Russell, Edward Johnson, F. A. Carter, Robert Emmett Owen, J. A. Cahill and others. Wrenn, Johnson, Cahill and Carter drew covers for the 15-cent New Magnets as well as the 5-cent weeklies.

Nick Carter, the "Little Giant," had trained to be an athlete as well as a mental marvel. He was slightly below average height but powerful, often compared (by Author Dey) to Eugene Sandow, the famous strong man. They appeared together on the cover of #384, "The Little Giant's Double, or, The World's Two Strongest Men." Nick lived at an unmentioned number on fashionable Manison Avenue, New York City. At the top of his house was a strong room in which he sometimes kept prisoners whom he did

not wish to turn over to the police immediately. What Nick Carter reader will ever forget the two small calibre pistols concealed in Nick's coat sleeves, which, by means of spiral springs, he could conjure into his hands with a jerk of the arms? Or the vest of chain mail he wore, the gift of the Mikado of Japan, which often accounted for the detective's marvelous escapes from death by snarling bullets? Or good old Pedro, the Cuban bloodhound, who many times helped his master track criminals, first appearing in #469, "Pedro, the Dog Detective"?

Chick Carter, first assistant and adopted son of the great sleuth, resembled Nick so closely, except for height, that it was no difficult matter for them to exchange identities when the success of a case demanded it. Next to the chief, Chick was the principal figure throughout the series. He and Nick sometimes disagreed. Once Chick had an open break with his boss and moved his belongings from the Madison Avenue home. The rupture occurred over a woman whom Chick believed to be on the square, because of his infatuation for her, while Nick held the opposite view and eventually proved her a criminal. Of course, Chick came back to the Carter household.

Next in importance was Patsy Garvan, Nick's second assistant, who lived through each successive series of Nick Carter tales. In fact, the steady reader would have felt a keen sense of loss had not Patsy made his appearance pretty often. As stated elsewhere, he was a newsboy and street arab until, under Nick Carter's tutelage, he became one of the finest sleuths in the business, excelling at shadowing criminals.

Third assistant was Ida Jones, who made her debut in Nick Carter Library #68, "Her Shrewd Double, or, Nick Carter's Lady Assistant at work." She also starred in #185, "Ida, the Woman Detective." The accomplished Miss Jones appeared infrequently. Stories about her in the Library were reprinted in Nick Carter Weekly #91 and #92. She was in Russia with Nick in #270, "Nick Carter and the Nihilists," #271, "Nick Carter in the Convict Gang," and #272, "Nick Carter and the Guilty Governor." She again assisted Nick in #662, "A

Tragedy of the Bowery," #663, "Four Scraps of Paper" and #664, "The Secret of the Mine."

Nick and Chick and Patsy formed an invincible detective trio, but of other assistants sometimes needed to break a hard case Ten-Ichi, a son of the Mikado of Japan, was one. His father desired that he be trained by Nick in the detective art, and Ten-Ichi taught Nick jiu-jitsu, which the chief sometimes used to subdue criminals. A creation of Dey's, Ten-Ichi first showed up in the Dazaar cases. He also appeared in Nick Carter Weekly #378, "Ten-Ichi, the Wonderful," #379, "The Mystery of the Mikado," #459, "The Jiu-Jitsu Puzzle," #460, "Kairo, the Strong," #461, "Nick Carter's Strange Power," #470, "The Automobile Fiend," and other Nick Carter histories. Eventually, he returned to Japan.

Adelina, Patsy's beautiful South American wife, became a fixture on Nick's staff and in his household, managed for many a year after Ethel Carter's death by a Mrs. Peters. And Joseph, Nick's valet, was himself an invaluable assistant. He appeared regularly in the Nick Carter tales after Dey took over, and was kept alive by other writers.

Toward the end, Nick Carter Weekly reprinted eight Doctor Quartz stories from Nick Carter Library, #779 through #786, nine about the crafty medico from the Weekly itself, #787 through #795. #805, 806, 807, 811, 812, 813, 817, 818, 819 all had been printed in earlier issues of the Weekly. With #198, it ceased publication. This was in 1912; it had been issued every week since 1897.

Nick Carter Weekly was immediately replaced by a new publication, Nick Carter Stories, which opened with a series of three by Dey: "The Man from Nowhere," "The Face at the Window" and "A Fight for a Million." #4, 5 and 6 were reprints from Nick Carter Weekly. #7, 8 and 9 were new, and probably the work of Frederick W. Davis, who wrote most of the series. The rule of three new, followed by three reprints, then three new again, was kept up until #85 was reached, entitled "The Wolf Within." From there on the stories were all new.

Nick Carter Stories began in the standard 8x11 size, but after 27 issues

it was reduced to 7½x11, a new size for nickel novels, which were already in a decline. The type was smaller, the feature story taking up 18 to 20 pages, with the remaining pages given over to reprint serials from other Street & Smith publications (among them the Sheridan Keene detective stories from *Shield Weekly*) and news items. The covers of Nick Carter Stories were in color. It was a short lived series, ending with #160, "The Yellow Label," which was really the first long instalment of a Nick Carter serial and continued in *Detective Story Magazine*. The complete story was later reprinted in New Magnet Library #977.

For many years, while the nickel weeklies were running strong, Street & Smith had been issuing weekly a volume of their book-size detective series, first called Magnet Library. The Magnets sold for a dime and averaged 200 pages. With #484, "The Finger of Suspicion," title of the library was changed to New Magnet, the number of pages increased to 300 or more, the type enlarged and the price advanced to 15 cents.

The exploits of Nick Carter and his assistants dominated the long series, although there were many stories about other detectives as well. Most of those between #1 and #483 were reprints from other sources, the great majority of the Nick Carters having first seen publication in the *New York Weekly*, *Nick Carter Library* and *Nick Carter Weekly*. Some were reprints of the *Shield Weekly*, with Nick or Chick in the role of Sheridan Keene. Two of these were #236, "A Move in the Dark" and #238, "The Claw of the Tiger." A few were new stories by Frederick W. Davis, who, under a nom de plume also wrote "The Woman in Red," "Sealed Lips," "A Bid for a Life," "Below the Dead Line" etc., which weren't Nick Carter tales. As "Scott Campbell" he was the author of four Felix Boyd volumes of short stories in New Magnet: #591, "Exploits of a Private Detective," #603, "Adventures of Felix Boyd," #615, "Felix Boyd's Revelations" and #627, "Felix Boyd's Final Problems."

New Magnet #485 was "The Crimson Clue" by Inspector Stark, who, with authors named John K. Stafford and Dick Stewart wrote many detective tales alternating with the Nick

Carters. Stark, Stafford and Stewart were undoubtedly pen names.

A briefly popular series, the "Harrison Keith" stories, was here introduced. Keith had first appeared in a volume of short stories, Magnet #93 "The Adventures of Harrison Keith, Detective." Possibly Davis was the author of them; certainly he wrote many of the Keith books after that detective hero was revived in New Magnet #489, "Harrison Keith, Sleuth." This was not a new story but a couple of reprints from *Nick Carter Weekly*, #463, "The Millionaire Cracksmen" and #464, "The Mystery Man." Nick became Harrison Keith; Chick was Dick Rogers, Patsy was Mike Donovan, Ten Ichi was Hans Brinkerman, assistants to Keith. The 49 Keith volumes which followed, interspersed with Nick Carters and tales of other detectives, apparently were all new. Davis and W. Bert Foster wrote most of them, Geo. C. Jenks or John H. Whitson a few. The last Keith tale was #661, "Harrison Keith's Cyclone Clue." Evidently, however, another volume of his exploits had been written and changed into a Nick Carter at the last moment. In #663, "Nick Carter's Convict Client," Keith's name appears at least once where the proof-reader failed to change it to Carter.

New Magnet #530, "The Doctor's Stratagem," was a new story of Nick Carter by Davis. It was followed by many other brand new Carter tales, scattered among reprints from *Nick Carter Weekly* and *Stories*, also a few from *Old Broadbrim Weekly*, Nick appearing in place of the Quaker detective (*Broadbrim* stories were first printed in *Old Cap Collier Library*). The various detectives whose adventures had been chronicled by Stark, Stafford and Stewart, disappeared from the New Magnet list, and stories by Robert M. Wells and Carl Frisbie briefly replaced them.

Beginning with #697, "Pauline—A Mystery," a reprint, nothing but Nick Carter tales were published. Frederick W. Davis, W. Bert Foster, George C. Jenks and John H. Whitson wrote the bulk of the new Nick Carters, a few of which were #550, "The Girl in the Case," #556, "Tangled Threads," #562, "The Silent Partner," #568, "Nabob and Knave," #572, "A Plunge Into Crime," #574, "The False Claimant," #576, "The Hand That Won,"

#586, "At Mystery's Threshold," #592 "Reaping the Whirlwind," #598, "A Disciple of Satan," #604, "Out of Crime's Depths," then a long skip to #663, "Nick Carter's Convict Client," #667, "Behind Closed Doors," #671, "Nick Carter's Persistence." After that the new ones were published regularly, even outnumbering the reprints for a time, and other writers besides Davis, Foster, Jenks and Whitson took up the Nick Carter tale. With #925, "A Klondike Claim" (reprint of Magnet #1, but not a Nick Carter), the series started all over again, and #1025, "Wildfire," was the last new Carter story to appear; nothing from there on but reprints of the library's earlier issues. When it ceased publication in 1933, New Magnet had reached a total of 1369 numbers.

Nick's detective adventures were revived in the 1930's in a brand new publication, Nick Carter Magazine, which, issued monthly, ran to forty issues. There were a few inevitable changes to bring the stories up to date, but Nick and Chick worked together as of old, breaking some tough cases in whirlwind fashion. Con Connors, the Government Secret Service operative of Nick Carter Weekly, appeared two or three times in the new magazine. Beginning with the May 1934 issue, Nick and Patsy were co-starred in a series of novelettes, in addition to the long Nick Carter novel. Roxy, the circus-trained girl detective, had not appeared with Nick since the days of the small size issues of Nick Carter Weekly, but she was on the job again in Nick Carter Magazine for October 1934. A favorite theme of Frederick Van Rensselaer Day's was intrigue in

high places, and Nick was often at grips with plotters in old Czarist Russia. In the August 1935 number of Nick Carter Magazine he had a case which took him to Soviet Russia. Richard Wormser, experienced newspaper, advertising and publicity writer was the author of these new Carter tales. Thrilling and artistic covers were drawn by the artist, J. Rozen. After Nick Carter Magazine was discontinued, shorter stories about him ran for a time in Street & Smith's magazine, Clues.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Sam Tanenbaum of Hartford, Conn. was here last Thursday night, but I missed him, as I became a warrior of the Redman and wouldn't have missed it for the world.

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34. Charles M. Taylor, Market Street at 46th, Northwest Corner, Phil., Pa.
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63. Stanley Pachon, 627 Hayes St., Bethlehem, Pa.
68. Roscoe B. Martin, Forestville, N. Y.
94. Clarence D. Lamb, P. O. Box 424, Salina, Kansas.
109. Robert McDowell, 20 Mifflin Ave., Uniontown, Pa.
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